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|  Collection amounts for January 2016 ~PARISH NEWS~ ~ PARISH NEWS ~ **~ GOSPEL REFLECTION ~** |

 “Eyes wide open” is the proper stance for gospel people. The little parable that is the gospel reading for this first Sunday of the new liturgical year forms the conclusion to Mark’s so-called apocalyptic discourse. Apocalyptic literature emerged within Judaism in the context of crisis or persecution. It was intended to provide hope in the midst of disaster: God’s coming can reverse the sufferings of the present. The Markan discourse is delivered as a farewell teaching to the inner circle of Jesus’ disciples. The concluding verse indicates that it is intended for a wider audience, however: “what I say to you, I say to all….” Like Peter, James, and John, Christian disciples through the ages are invited to stay awake, to be on the lookout, to be alert. This cycle of the liturgical year begins and ends with Mark 13 and a focus on the end of the present order of things. It may seem strange to begin the year with such a reflection. Is Advent not a time of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Christ child into the world? Mark has no account of the birth of Jesus. His gospel begins with the immediate preparation for the adult ministry of Jesus. From the very outset, his interest is in the coming of God‘s reign of justice and compassion. And that is, in fact, what Advent is about: living in hopeful expectation that God’s dream for a transformed world might be realised. The little parable of the watchful gatekeeper forms the conclusion to a farewell discourse that the Markan Jesus addresses to his disciples. The disciples are told to be alert and watchful through the four watches of the Roman night: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, and at dawn. The parable thus foreshadows aspects of Jesus’ suffering that was to be compounded by the abandonment and denial of his closest friends. Peter, James, and John will fall asleep in Gethsemane. The disciples will all disperse, and Peter will deny him. We find our own experience mirrored in that of the disciples. It is easy to lose hope in the face of overwhelming violence and even lose focus.

Advent is about recognising our own capacity to be less than vigilant and even to turn away when our presence is most needed. It is about allowing the grace of God to take hold in our hearts, keeping us watchful for the sake of those on the edge. Most of us would agree that our world is in crisis. Ukraine, Gaza, Syria and Iraq are the flashpoints that have placed us on alert. We need to be alert to the causes of the conflicts as well as to their consequences, so that the cycle of violence might eventually be broken. Our gospel asks no less of us. ***An excerpt by Sr. Veronica Lawson***

***Sr.Veronica Lawson***

***Immaculate Conception Parish***

P O BOX 600 Tumut

Catholic Community

***An excerpt by Sr. Veronica Lawson***

**‘CLERGY’**

* **Fr. Sijo Jose (Parish Priest)**
* **Fr. Luke Verrell (Assistant Priest)**

**‘PARISH SECRETARY’**

 **Anna Quinn**

**Phone: 02 69474599**

**Fax: 02 69474602**

 Email: tumut@cg.org.au

 Web: www.cg.org.au/tumut

Office hours: Wednesday & Friday 9am -12noon

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**‘WEEKEND MASS TIMES’**

 **Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm**

 **Sunday: 10am (Children’s Liturgy)**

 **Talbingo Sunday: 8.00am**

 **‘THIS WEEKS MASS TIMES’**

**Tuesday: 6pm**

**Wednesday: 10am (School Mass)**

**Thursday: 6pm (Year 10 Graduation Mass)**

**Friday: 8am**

**Saturday: 9am (every fortnight - Thursday: 11am BUPA Liturgy**

**Saturday: 9.40am BLAKENEY LODGE Liturgy)**

 **‘ROSARY’**

**Saturday at 8.45am**

**Exposition at 8.30am (1st Sat of month)**

 **‘RECONCILIATION’**

 **Saturday at 5.15pm**

 **‘LITURGY MEETING’**

 **Tuesday: 2.00pm in Chapel**

 **‘PRAYER GROUP’**

 **(Rosary & Divine Mercy)**

 **Wednesday: 2pm in Chapel**

  **‘CONTACTS’**

 **Care Group: Anne Huebner 69473406**

**1st Sunday of Advent Year B**

 **December 3rd 2017**

 ***Entrance Antiphon***

**To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.**

***Responsorial Psalm***

**Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

***Gospel Acclamation***

**Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!**

 ***Gospel Acclamation***

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Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed; the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

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| T THIS WEEK Saturday & Sunday 2nd & 3rd December   |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm |  Sunday 10am |
| Acolyte |  John Hickson |  Mark Hogan |
| Reader |  Rick Hargreaves |  Kath Rosetta |
| Commentator |  Mary Kelly  |  Patricia Wilks |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  Pat Spannagle |
| Musicians |  Patricia & Monica  |  Maureen Norman |
| Altar Servers |  New Servers | Abby Crampton & Olivia Dean |
| Church Care\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_LINEN Maria Cobden |  ------------------------------- |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 9th & 10th December  |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | 10am |
| Acolyte |  Anita Mason  |  Trish Matthews |
| Reader |  Dobbie Family |  Sue Bulger |
| Commentator |  Dobbie Family |  Pat Spannagle |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  Kerrin Henderson |
| Musicians |  Maureen Norman |  Patricia & Monica  |
| Altar Servers |  Annabelle Sturgess & Genevieve Mason-Elliott | Abby Crampton & Olivia Dean |
| Church Care |  Group 2: Anna Pat & Sophie Erzay |

 Feast Day**Wishing all our wonderful dads a Happy Father’s D**

 R O S T E R S

 **Feast Days:**

 **7th December: Saint Ambrose 8th December: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**SAVE THE DATE: 2nd Rite of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas will be held in the church Wednesday 13th December 2017 at 6pm.**

**FOR SALE – 2018 Daily Mass books $22.00@ and Columban Calendars $8.20@**

 **~PARISH NEWS~**

**THURSDAY MORNING MASS** will be at 6pm on the 7th December instead of 8am. **FR. LUKE’S FARWELL** To show our appreciation and wish Fr. Luke wellthere will be a retiring collection at both Masses on the weekend of the 16th and 17th December. A farwell cup of tea will be organised after the Vigil Mass on Saturday 23rd December and the morning Mass on Sunday 24th December. Could ladies please bring a plate to share.  **ENTRANCE CHURCH WORKS** have or will be completed:- removal of tree, old path garden edging and soil. New path, edging and grass. New church sign. Church fundraising and Ball Committee to cover these costs. **BAPTISMS** we welcome into our community this weekend Luka Kevin and Alfie John Jeffree sons of Kyle and Jessica. We pray for all baptism families. **FINANCE REPORT** a financial parish report to the end of September 2017 is available for parishioners to take and read. **CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL 2017** thank you to our generous community, we have forwarded $185.00 to help assist the Health Centre in Uganda. **ST.VINCENT DE PAUL –** ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL your support would be most appreciated. **SPECIAL THANKS** to our Sunday Altar servers ~ Abby & Olivia ~

**We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith:**

 **MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

Margaret Peel, Ruby Harmer,Alan & Angela Guthrie, Hassel & Joy McGrath, Noel Cook, Hargreaves family, Family members & relatives of Tran family, Frederick & Mabel McInerney, Ken Elliott, Jock Roberts, Ralph Klaus, James Kelly, Harry & Muriel Nancarrow, Harry & Pat Nancarrow, Christine Welsh, Allison Brady, Scott Payne, Ben Roddy, Paul & Nick Young, Robert Longford, Julie, Jack & Thelma Cobden, Jamie Nixon, Stan Kenny, Marzol family members, members of Young, Egan, Breward & Van de Brug families, Russell & Peter Ritchie, Hector, Annie & Kevin Turner, Jean Kelly, Margaret McMahon, Veronica Tiernan, Mollie Fuller, Joan Malone, Ken & Brian Gee & family members, Rudi & Filomena Comai, Marallo & Comai families, Celia Mullaly, Jim McInerney, Kath Stuckey, Gus & Kath Clout, Ab & Mildred Shanahan, Ina Clout, Timothy Blakeney, Madeling Fenn, Jan Salan, Chris Ballard, Maude Kelly, Norma Leyden, Reg Millgate, Joan Liddell, Lois Shallow, Helen Corbett, Frank, Eileen & Marie Malone, Edward, Marcy & Clem Malone, Frank Stanfield, John Callister, Imelda, Bede & Francis McInerney, Teresa Butler, Joan Stockwell, Emmet Donovan, Leo & Elvie Holt, Lionel & Tereasa Holt, Hugh Oliver, Pat Malone, Matt & Edith Downing, Con & Ennis Twomey, Pauline Shedden, John Hourigan, Tom & Dorothy French.

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